

HOUSE BILL 1971

By Armstrong

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4;
Title 33; Title 68 and Title 71, relative to
Alzheimer's disease.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1.

(a) The Tennessee Alzheimer's Disease Task Force (TADTF) is established. The TADTF shall consist of nineteen (19) volunteer members, who shall include the chairs of the senate general welfare committee and the house health and human resources committee or their designees, at least one person with Alzheimer's disease, one caregiver of a person with Alzheimer's disease, a representative of the nursing facility industry, a representative of the assisted living industry, a representative of the adult day services industry, a representative of the medical care provider community, an Alzheimer's disease researcher, a representative of the Mid-South chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, a representative of the Eastern Tennessee chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, a representative of the Northeast/Southeast Tennessee chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, three (3) members of the public at large and each director (or their designee) of the following state agencies: the departments of health and of mental health and developmental disabilities, commission on aging and disability, and the bureau of TennCare. Non-legislative members of the Task Force shall be appointed by the governor.

(b) Appointments shall be made within sixty (60) days after the effective date of this act. The governor shall designate the chair of the task force and shall set the date of the first meeting of the task force. At the organizational meeting, a vice-chair and secretary shall be elected from the committee's membership.

SECTION 2.

(a) The executive director of the Tennessee commission on aging and disability shall provide necessary administrative support to the Tennessee Alzheimer's Disease Task Force. The task force is also authorized to request and receive assistance from any department, agency or entity of state government, upon request of the chair.

(b) Members of the task force are volunteers and serve without pay, except that non-legislative members may be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with travel regulations promulgated by the commissioner of finance and administration and approved by the attorney general and reporter. Members of the general assembly shall be compensated in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 3-1-106. In order to encourage participation by persons with Alzheimer's disease and their caretakers, a reasonable allowance may be made to reimburse travel expenses and respite care in circumstances of need for such persons.

SECTION 3. The Tennessee Alzheimer's Disease Task Force is directed to assess the current and future impact of Alzheimer's disease on Tennesseans; to examine the existing industries, services and resources addressing the needs of persons with Alzheimer's, their families, and caregivers; and to develop a strategy to mobilize a state response to this public health crisis.

SECTION 4. The Tennessee Alzheimer's Disease Task Force shall include an examination of the following in its assessment and recommendations:

(1) Trends in state Alzheimer's population and needs, including the changing population with dementia, including but not limited to:

(A) State role in long-term care, family caregiver support, and assistance to persons with early-stage and early onset of Alzheimer's; and

(B) State policy regarding persons with Alzheimer's and developmental disabilities.

(2) Existing services, resources, and capacity, including but not limited to the:

(A) Type, cost and availability of dementia services;

(B) Dementia-specific training requirements for long-term care staff;

(C) Quality care measures for residential care facilities;

(D) Capacity of public safety and law enforcement to respond to persons with Alzheimer's;

(E) Availability of home- and community-based resources for persons with Alzheimer's and respite care to assist families;

(F) Inventory of long-term care dementia care units;

(G) Adequacy and appropriateness of geriatric-psychiatric units for persons with behavioral disorders associated with Alzheimer's and related dementia:

(H) Assisted living residential options for persons with dementia; and

(I) State support of Alzheimer's research through universities and other resources; and

(3) Needed state policies or responses, including but not limited to directions for the provision of clear and coordinated services and supports to persons and families living with Alzheimer's and related disorders and strategies to address any identified gaps in services.

SECTION 5. The Tennessee Alzheimer's Disease Task Force is directed to hold public meetings and utilize technological means, such as web casts, to gather feedback on the recommendations from persons and families affected by Alzheimer's disease and the general public. The task force shall conduct at least one (1) public hearing in each of the state's three

(3) grand divisions. The primary purpose of such public hearings shall be the receipt of public testimony relevant to the task force's assigned topics of inquiry. Public hearings and all other meetings of the task force shall comply with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, Chapter 44, Part 1.

SECTION 6. The Tennessee Alzheimer's Disease Task Force is directed to submit a report of its findings and date-specific recommendations, including any suggested legislation, to the general assembly and the Governor in the form of a State Alzheimer's Plan no later than February 15, 2008.

SECTION 7. The Tennessee Alzheimer's Disease Task Force shall meet after the state plan is submitted at least annually to review the need for new components to the state plan.

SECTION 8. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 1, is amended by adding Section 1 through 7, inclusive, of this act as a new part 24.

SECTION 9. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-29-230(a), is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision:

() Tennessee Alzheimer's Disease Task Force, created by Section 1 of this act.

SECTION 10. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007, the public welfare requiring it.